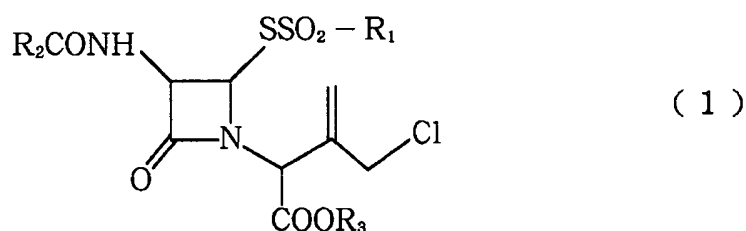


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

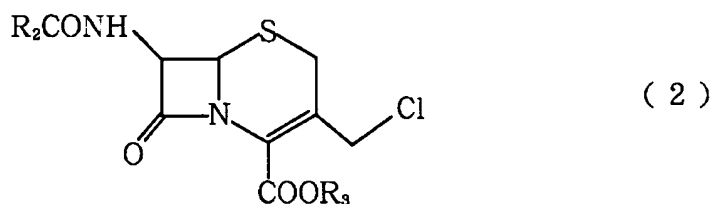
1. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a crystalline 3-chloromethyl-3-cephem derivative, comprising ~~the~~ a reaction step of performing a reaction of a chlorinated azetidinone derivative with an alcoholate, in a solvent containing at least one ~~of alcohols~~ alcohol, and at a pH of 8 or less,

wherein the chlorinated azetidinone derivative is expressed by Chemical Formula (1):



where R₁ represents one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aryl groups and substituted and unsubstituted heterocyclic residues, and R₂ and R₃ each represent one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups, and

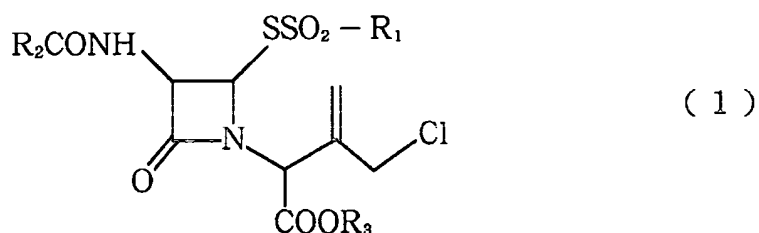
wherein the 3-chloromethyl-3-cephem derivative is expressed by Chemical Formula (2):



where R_2 and R_3 each represent one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups.

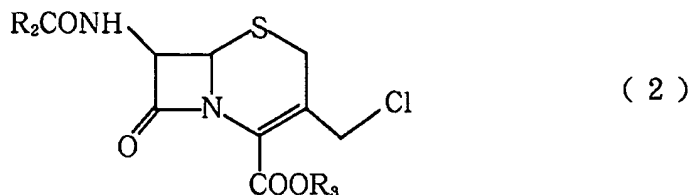
2. (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a crystalline 3-chloromethyl-3-cephem derivative, comprising ~~the a~~ reaction step of performing a reaction of a chlorinated azetidinone derivative with an alcoholate, in a solvent containing at least one ~~of alcohols~~ alcohol and ~~an~~ at least one ether, and at a pH of 8 or less,

wherein the chlorinated azetidinone derivative is expressed by Chemical Formula (1):



where R_1 represents one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aryl groups and substituted and unsubstituted heterocyclic residues, and R_2 and R_3 each represent one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups, and

wherein the 3-chloromethyl-3-cephem derivative is expressed by Chemical Formula (2):



where R₂ and R₃ each represent one selected from the group consisting of substituted and unsubstituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups.

3. (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the reaction step is performed by adding solution A containing the chlorinated azetidinone derivative and solution B containing the alcoholate into solution C containing ~~at least one of the alcohols~~ said solvent, and wherein the chlorinated azetidinone derivative in solution A is dissolved in a solvent containing ~~an~~ at least one ether, and the alcoholate in solution B is dissolved in a solvent containing at least one ~~of the alcohols~~ alcohol.

4. (Original): The process according to Claim 3, wherein part of solution A in an amount equivalent to 5 to 30 percent on a mole basis of the entire amount of chlorinated azetidinone derivative involved in the reaction is added to solution C, and then the rest of solution A and solution B are simultaneously added to solution C.

5. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein 0.8 to 1.5 mol of the alcoholate is allowed to react relative to 1 mol of the chlorinated azetidinone derivative.

6. (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein ~~the alcohols~~

~~are said at least one alcohol is at least one selected from the group consisting of~~ methanol and ethanol.

7. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 2, wherein the ether is dioxane.

8. (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the alcoholate is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium methylate and sodium ethylate.

9. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the reaction is performed at a temperature of 5°C or less.

10. (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1,
wherein the reaction step is performed by adding solution A containing the chlorinated azetidinone derivative and solution B containing the alcoholate into solution C containing said solvent, wherein

the chlorinated azetidinone derivative in solution A is dissolved in a solvent containing at least one alcohol and dioxane, and

the alcoholate in solution B is dissolved in a solvent containing at least one alcohol
~~wherein the ether is dioxane, and the solvent containing the ether, dissolving the chlorinated azetidinone derivative is a mixed solvent of dioxane and an alcohol.~~

11. Cancelled.

12. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 3, wherein solution C further contains dioxane.

13. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 3, wherein solution A and

solution B are added by dripping.

14. (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the reaction is performed in the absence of water.

15 (New): The process according to Claim 2,
wherein the reaction step is performed by adding solution A containing the chlorinated azetidinone derivative and solution B containing the alcoholate into solution C containing said solvent, wherein

the chlorinated azetidinone derivative in solution A is dissolved in a solvent containing at least one alcohol and dioxane,

the alcoholate in solution B is dissolved in a solvent containing at least one alcohol, and
in said solvent containing at least one alcohol and an ether the ether is dioxane.